THE
Letters Pattents of

the Kings Declaration for the re-*ferring of the generall aſſemblie of the* Princes, Cardinals, Dukes and Peeres, as well Eccleſiaſticall as Temporall, the officers of the Crowne, the Lords, Gentlemen, officers and others, vnto the 15. day of March next comming.

Alſo to reclaime his ſubiects and rebellious townes to his obedience.

Publiſhed in the Parliament of *Caen* the 22. of of December. 1589.

Faithfullie tranſlated out of the French copie printed at Caen.

AT LONDON
Printed by *Thomas Orwin* for *Auguſtine Lawton*, dwelling in Maiden lane neere Woodſtreete.

The Letters Pattents of the *Kings Declaration.*

HEnrie by the grace of GOD King of *France* and *Nauarre*, to all that theſe Letters ſhall ſee, greeting. Our firſt vowes & ſupplications vnto God, at ſuch time as it pleaſed him to call vs to the ſucceſſion of this Crowne, were to pray him to giue vs grace not to bee of the number of thoſe Princes, whom in his wrath he giueth to his people: but contrariwiſe that we might be ſo happie, as to bee of thoſe whom he choſeth for the comfort and remedie of troubled and afflicted eſtates. And albeit wee could haue wiſhed any other exerciſe, and ſought a foundation of honor and merit in any other place whereſoeuer, rather than in the ſickneſſe of this eſtate; for the encreaſe whereof we would more willinglie labour, than for the reducing of it to health: yet ſith it pleaſed God to appoynt vs to bee a miniſter of ſo good a worke, and to call vs to this charge, albeit it bee at this preſent repleniſhed with the horribleſt confuſion that euer was, wee doo neuertheleſſe hope, that hee will not ſee vs ſhrinke vnder the burthen. Alſo that hauing deliuered the Scepter into our hands, he will likewiſe

giue vs courage and force to handle the ſame firſt to his glorie, then to the eaſe of our ſubiects, and the confuſion and deſtruction of all rebells, the perturbers of this eſtate and the Common wealth.

In this ſtedfaſt opinion wee alſo haue reſolued without intermiſsion, to employ the whole courſe of our age ſo farre as may be requiſite and neceſſarie, together with whatſoeuer our paine, induſtrie and ſubſtance.

Howbeit, as for the execution of this affaire, our beſt eyes and ſtrongeſt hands doo reſt in the aſsiſtance as well by preſence, as by good and wiſe counſaile and aduiſe of the Princes of our bloud, our officers of the Crowne, our Lords, Capteines, Gentlemen, and others our chiefe miniſters and officers, now diſtributed abroad in the Prouinces, who beſides their naturall duetie to aſsiſt and ſerue vs, haue alſo as great intereſt as our ſelues in the vpholding of our authoritie, which conſiſteth in the vnitie of the Monarchie, wherevpon dependeth the tranquilitie and preſeruation of the Common wealth. Thinking, that vppon this occaſion wee could no way begin better to ſet hand to this worke, than by calling of them together, to the end together to aduiſe vpon the beſt meanes and remedies whereby to attaine to the full cure of the bodie of this eſtate, too farre weakened and pulled downe with the tediouſnes and violence of the diſeaſe that tormenteth it, wee haue to that effect diſpatched our cloſed letters of the 27. of Auguſt laſt paſt to all our Bayliues and Seneſchals, to the end they ſhould publiſh, each within the reſort of

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his iuriſdiction, the ſaid aſſemblie of the aforenamed, which we purpoſed to make before the laſt day of the moneth of October in our towne of *Tours*, to the end that all they that were named in our ſaid letters, might bee preſent about the effect and contents of the ſame. Alſo to prepare our ſelues to bee likewiſe there, leaſt in the meane time ſuch our forces as wee had together ſhould reſt vnprofitable, we did euen then reſolue to diuide them into three parts, whereof we then ſent one into *Picardie* vnder the leading of our deare & welbeloued Coſen the Duke of *Longueuille*: another into *Champagne* vnder the charge of our like deare and welbeloued Coſen the *Marſhall d' Aumont*, in the ſaid Prouinces, to preſerue thoſe townes & our good ſubiects that haue continued vnder our obedience, and to annoy the rebells as much as they might, wherein they had happie ſucceſſe. With the third part which wee ſtill kept about vs, that wee alſo might employ the time that reſted vntill the ſaid conuocation, we purpoſed to viſite our Prouince of *Normandie*, there to comfort our good and faithful ſeruants, to prouide for the ſafetie of ſuch townes as haue kept thē ſelues in the fidelitie that they ought vnto vs, and to keepe the enemies (finding vs ſo neere them) from all ſpeedie aſſaulting of thoſe that we had latelie recouered from thē about *Paris*, and ſo to purchace them that had them in charge, leiſure commodiouſlie to repaire and fortifie them. But the enemies thinking to haue gotten oportunitie greatlie to their owne aduantage, came againſt vs with the greateſt power that peraduenture they

ſhall bee euer able to bring together, as hauing the aſsiſtance of great troopes from the borders of the Low Countries, and of greater from our Neuewe the Marquiſe of *Pont*, ſonne to our brother in lawe the Duke of *Lorrain*, all whom they had inuited to the partition of this eſtate, which at that time they preſumed to diuide amongſt themſelues. But when it pleaſed GOD otherwiſe to take order by bringing their purpoſes to naught, he permitted the loſſe and ſhame of all the enterprizes that they framed aboue a moneth, while both our Armie and theirs were lodged in ſight each of other, alſo of all the Skirmiſhes (though the match were vnequall) there made, ſtill to light on their ſide, and the aduantage vpon ours. In the end, vpon aduice of the great and notable ſuccour brought vnto vs by our moſt deare and welbeloued Coſens the Earle of *Soiſſons*, the Duke of *Longueuille*, and the *Marſhall d' Aumont*, they retired ſhamefullie, and with all diligence paſſed the riuer of *Sõme*, ſo to eſchue the danger of battaile: neither could they take theſe townes that they publiſhed the ſiege of, neither ſurpriſe others euen of the beſt in *Picardie* which they had ſeduced in intent againſt their wills, and without their knowledge to ſell and deliuer them to thoſe, in whoſe mortall hatred the enhabitants of them are borne and conceaued, thereby purpoſing to bring in together with the ſtrangers the traffique and ſale of our townes and ſubiects, leaſt they ſhould leaue any impietie vnpractiſed for the atchieuing of their intents. For the diuerting them wherefro, as alſo not to leaue the goodly and mightie power by

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meanes of the aforeſaid ſuccour then in our armie, vnprofitable, we reſolued to march directly to *Paris*, wherein we had ſo happie ſucceſſe, that in leſſe than eight daies, of beſieged (as they gaue vs out to be) we were ſeene beſieging the ſuburbs of the ſaid towne of *Paris*, where the next day after our comming in leſſe than one houre we took all that ſtood on this ſide the riuer, hauing by that meanes withdrawne the ſaid enemies out of *Picardie*, which was one of our drifts for the which wee came to *Paris*, albeit wee could not compaſſe the other, which was to bring them to the Combat, whereto no occaſion whatſoeuer that happened could euer induce their mindes: wherein of all their enterprizes, and in liew of ſo many the loſſes and foyles by them receiued, wee for our parts neuer encurred any greater inconuenience, than the deferring and proroging of the ſaid Conuocation firſt appoynted to *Tours* the laſt of October laſt paſt, as is aforeſaid. Which for the cauſes aforeſaid, as alſo for that we are aduertiſed that moſt of thoſe that be called, will not at this preſent, commit themſelues to the hazard of the high waies for the vndertaking of this voyage, whereby the ſaid aſſemblie cannot be full, according as wee deſire it ſhould: beſides that, the firſt forraine power that we leuied, ſhould be entered into this realme the 15 of this moneth, whom it importeth vs greatlie with all ſpeede to employ: for which effect it is neceſſarie our ſelfe ſhould in perſon go to them. In conſideration of the reaſons aforeſaid, we haue thought it good to deferre it vntill the 15 of the moneth of March next comming:

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as hoping betweene this and that time ſo to endeuour our ſelues againſt our ſaid enemies, that the reſolutions in the ſaid aſſemblie to bee concluded ſhall bee farre more eaſie, as alſo the waies ſhall bee laid ſo free and open, that they whom wee wiſh to be preſent out of al our Prouinces, may come with greater ſafetie and commoditie, as hauing eſcaped the annoyances of the winter ſeaſon. In the meane ſpace, our ſelues doo hope ſo well to beſtowe our time, that neither our ſubiects, nor our ſelues ſhall haue occaſion to complaine or miſlike of the ſaid delay. Whereof deſiring that our ſubiects of the calling aforeſaid, as alſo all other that may do there any ſeruice and are willing to come, might bee aduertiſed, to the end both to prepare for their comming, as alſo not to depart but in time conuenient to get thether by the ſaid tearme, we will and ordeine, that all our ſaid Bayliues and Seneſchalls, ſhall each in his reſort and iuriſdiction, cauſe to be publiſhed that the ſaid aſſemblie which by our former letters wee had appoynted the ſaid laſt day of the moneth of October, as aforeſaid, we haue now vpon the conſiderations aforeſaid, deferred and put off vntill the 15. day of the moneth of March next comming in our ſaid towne of *Tours*, or any other which we ſhall thinke more meete and conuenient according to the place where at that time wee may happen to bee, whereof wee will cauſe them to bee ſpeedelie aduertiſed, if occaſion enforce vs to change to ſome other place than the ſaid towne of *Tours*, for the ſaid aſſemblie. Whereto we do alſo exhort the Princes of our bloud, and others the Cardinals,

Cardinals, Dukes and Peeres both ſpirituall and temporal, officers of the Crowne, our owne Counſell, Prelates, Lords, Gentlemen, our officers and miniſters, and others named in our former letters: yet we do alſo adiure them in the name of almightie GOD, by the fidelitie that they owe vs, and by their duetie to the preſeruation & defence of their Countrie, to be preſent at the ſaid time, readie to aſſiſt vs with their good counſaile about whatſoeuer ſhall bee propounded concerning the eſtabliſhment of this eſtate, the puniſhment and correction of the ſaid rebells, and eſpeciallie to doo iuſtice vpon the cruell and barbarous ſlaughter committed in the perſon of the late King, our moſt honorable Lord and brother.

Furthermore, notwithſtanding the obſtinacie of the ſaid rebells deſerueth to be purſued with all rigour, in reſpect that their rebellion had no ground of oppreſsion or iniurie receiued, but was raiſed onelie for the pleaſure of ſome particular mens paſſions, into whoſe purpoſes and intents, which can not be accompliſhed without the generall ſubuertion of this eſtate, & ſo conſequentlie the full ruine of euerie one particularlie, the moſt of them are not able to penetrate: yet to the end not to omit anie the conuenient meanes, by clemencie to reclaime the ſtraied into the right path, which is the thing that according to our natural inclination we haue alwaies moſt deſired, referring them to our owne particular correction, whenſoeuer wee ſhall be forced to chaſtize them. Conſidering likewiſe that this firſt leuie of ſtrangers, which is alreadie

entred our realme, ſhall ſhortly bee followed with a farre greater: alſo that wee could wiſh before this great aſſemblie of forraine power ſhould meete together (whereof vnto them and their goods & fortunes, as alſo to our ſaid townes, can enſue no other but extreeme deſolation) they would preuent this inconuenience, and take hold of that leaſure that GOD giueth them to acknowledge their fault, whereto for our part we doo inuite and ſummon them as much as poſsiblie wee may. Wee of our grace, power and royall authoritie, haue declared, and by theſe preſents doo declare, that all townes and perſons of what ſtate or condition ſoeuer, (except ſuch as ſhall bee found guiltie of the ſlaughter of the late King our Lord and brother) who heretofore haue ſuffered themſelues to bee ſeduced by the perſwaſions of the ſaid rebells and perturbers of publique peace vnder the name of the League, and haue borne Armes for them, and aſsiſted them with their goods, fauours and ſupport, ſeparating themſelues from their due obedience to the late King our ſaid Lord and brother, and now vnto vs who are the true and lawful heire of this Crowne: in caſe they become ſorowfull & penitent for their paſſed faults, and returne to their dueties, and within ſixe weekes after the publication of theſe preſents in our Courts of Parliamēt, do make expreſſe declaration ſigned vnder their hands, *viz.* for euery particular perſon in the regiſter of the iuriſdiction whereof he dooth reſort, of the fidelitie and obedience that they owe vnto vs, with promiſe vpon their liues, goods and honors, neuer to fauour or

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helpe the ſaid rebells, nor any other againſt vs and our ſeruice: and for the bodies of the ſaid townes, that they alſo ſend their deputies furniſhed with authenticall authoritie giuen in their towne meetings, to take the like oath in our hands: that the ſaid bodies of townes, the dwellers and enhabitants of the ſame, as alſo the other particular perſons ſhall be exempt and abſolued from all penalties whatſoeuer they may haue encurred by reaſon of their crime of fellonie and rebellion, and other the dependances thereof, conteined and mentioned as well in the ancient decrees & lawes of this realme, as in the edicts and declarations hereupon made by the late King our ſaid Lord and brother: promiſing in the word and faith of a King, to receiue all thoſe that ſhall performe the premiſſes, and henceforth to acknowledge & entreate them as our good and faithfull ſubiects, & to take them into our protection and ſafegard. Alſo that if there haue been made any ſeazure of their goods moueable or immouable for the occaſion aforeſaid, after the aforeſaid declaration, there ſhall bee redeliuerie made thereof, and themſelues reſtored to the full vſe and enioying thereof. To the end alſo that they may ſafelie come to vs, and to the regiſters of our ſaid iuriſdictions to make their ſaid declarations: alſo that our Gouernours and Lieutenants generall may be aduertiſed thereof, they ſhall bee bound to take Paſports of them, which our pleaſure is, ſhall bee graunted thē, yet with limitation of time, wherein they ſhall be bound to make the ſaid declaration as well to vs as to our ſaid regiſters, with reſpect to

the distance of places betweene them and vs, or our said iurisdictions: so that the time by the said Passports limited, which shall to the same end bee expresselie mentioned, being expired, they shall stand thē in no farther stead. Also in case after the said declarations made, they shall chance to fall againe into the said rebellion, our pleasure is, that whersoeuer they may be caught or apprehended, their processe shall bee made and perfected according to the purport of the said decrees, declaring that they shall neuer bee taken or deemed as prisoners of warre, notwithstanding whatsoeuer capitulation, promise or agreement that may bee made with them by any the Lieutenāts general of our Armies, Capteines, or other our men of warre: as also wee doo declare that wee will with all rigour proceede against the obstinacie of those that shall not accept of this our present grace, fauour and goodnesse.

Wee doo also command our trustie and welbeloued, the keepers of our Courts of Parliament, to cause this our declaration to be read and enrouled, and the within named to enioy the contents thereof, with the conditions therein mentioned: also our Bayliues and Seneschales to cause to publish the putting off of the said Conuocation vnto the said 15 day of March next, and so farre as in them lieth, to obserue the contents of this present declaration. As also wee command the Gouernours and Lieutenants generall of our Prouinces to doo the like, so farre forth as may depend vpon their charge for the execution thereof. For such is our pleasure. In witnesse whereof, wee haue caused our Seale to

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be put to theſe preſents. Giuen at our Campe before *Mans* the 28. of Nouember in the yeare of grace 1589. and of our reigne the firſt. Signed *Henrie:* and vppon the fould, *By the King in his counſell.*

FORGET

And ſealed vppon a double Labell with his Maieſties great Seale in yellowe waxe.

Alſo aſide vppon the ſaid fould. Red, publiſhed and enrouled, in the hearing and at the requeſt of the Kings Atturney generall, according to the decree and determination of the Court, the Chambers aſſembled, the 20. of this moneth. In the Parliament at *Caen* the 22. of December. 1589.

Signed *Godefroy.*

An extract out of the Regiſters of *the Court of Parliament.*

THe Court, all the Chambers aſſembled, hauing ſeene the Letters Pattents made at the Campe before *Mans* the 28. of Nouember laſt, whereby the King hath deferred and put off the generall aſſemblie of the Princes, Cardinals, Dukes, Peeres, as well Eccleſiaſticall as Temporall, Officers of the Crowne, Lords, Gentlemen, Officers and others, vnto the 15. of March next in the towne of *Tours*: and declared that all perſons and townes of whatſoeuer ſtate or calling, (except thoſe that ſhall bee found guiltie of the ſlaughter of the late King) that heretofore haue ſuffered themſelues to be ſeduced by the perſwaſions of rebels and perturbers of publique peace vnder the name of the League, haue borne Armes for them, and aſsiſted them with their meanes, fauour and ſupport, in caſe (being ſorie & penitent for their former faults) they returne to their duties, and within ſixe weekes after the publication of the ſaid letters in the Courts of Parliament, doo make the declarations therein expreſſlie conteined, ſhall be exempt and abſolued from all penalties that they may haue encurred, by reaſon of the crime of felonie and rebellion, conteined and mentioned in the auncient decrees of this realme, or the edicts and declarations of the late King, the whole vppon conditions mentioned in the ſaid Letters Pattents. The Concluſion of the Kings Atturney

Atturney generall and the matter put in deliberation.

The ſaid Court, the Chambers aſſembled, hath ordeined, and dooth ordeine, that the ſaid Letters Pattents ſhould be read, publiſhed, and enrouled in the Roules therof, in the hearing and at the requeſt of the Kings Atturney generall: and printed and ſent throughout the Bayliwicks of this reſſort to bee likewiſe read, publiſhed and enrouled, ſo as no man may pretend any cauſe of ignorance.

Giuen at *Caen*, in the Parliament the 20. of December. 1589. Signed *Godefroy*.

FINIS.